cation to all backward classes including the Pulayas had been granted, and 200 primary schools were maintained for imparting instruction to them. He was however not in a position to say how many of these schools were under direct Government management, but their number must be extremely small. The large majority of schools were under the management of missionaries and it was noteworthy that they turned their attention more to conversion than to education. The Pulayas were being treated in this manner, not only in the matter of education, but also in respect of medical relief and attendance in courts. The member prayed that with a view to remove the various disabilities under which these men who were now treated as worse than beasts of burden laboured, more schools might be opened under Government management for imparting instruction to them, and a special Inspector appointed to supervise the working of the schools for backward classes in the State.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (*Ettumanur*) said that there were very few schools for backward classes in the Kottayam Division as compared with the Padmanabhapuram Division and that both the Pulayas and the Malayala Brahmins in the northern taluks were extremely backward in the matter of education. He suggested that a special school might be opened for the latter at Kaduthuruthy and other Brahmin centres, on the lines of the caste English school now maintained at Mavelikara.

Reply.—At present there are 276 schools for backward classes with 5,907 pupils. 20 of these are under the direct management of Government and the rest aided. No new school was opened in 1081, as the demand for the same was met by private agencies who were liberally aided by Government. Education cannot be unsound simply because it is given by missionaries. If further necessity is felt, more Government schools for backward classes will be opened.

174 Giving Government Scholarships to not less than 4 students from among the Krishnanvagakars.

Mr. M. Bhuthalingam Pillai (*Eraniel*) said that the Krishnanvagakars belonged to a caste of Hindus living in Eraniel and Kalkulam. They were extremely backward in education and had not yet produced even a single matriculate. The member suggested that, by way of

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encouraging education among them, four scholarships at least might be given to deserving pupils of that community. Applications were made by the castemen for scholarships before, but were rejected.

Reply.—It does not appear when the applications referred to by the member were rejected by Government. When individual applications are received, they will be considered.

175. Encouragement of education among Malayala Brahmins.

Mr. T. Vasudevan Potti of Vilavancode (*Nominated*) in whose name this subject stood was not present when called.

Reply.—This subject was referred to by Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Ettumanur) also. Special schools cannot be opened for Malayala Brahmins as they are allowed free admission in all Government schools.

176. Desirability of opening schools in important towns for the education of Mahomedans, imparting free instruction to them, affording facilities for feeding Mahomedan paupers, and entertaining in service and otherwise encouraging Mahomedan boys who have passed the Lower Secondary Examination and studied up to the Matriculation class.

Mr. Kochu Hassen Kunju (*T. I. C., Quilon*) in whose name this subject stood was absent.

Reply.—There are 9 Government and 7 aided schools in the State exclusively for Mahomedans. Further, all the Government schools are open to them. Mahomedan pupils in the Changanachery Mahomedan School are taught free. As for feeding paupers, there are already conjee houses in some centres and these are intended to afford relief to the Mahomedan poor also. As regards examination tests, no general exemption or concession can be granted, but deserving individual cases are being even now exempted.

177. Suggestions for working the local School of Arts on commercial lines.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (*Nominated*) said that at present the local School of Arts was only an ornamental institution and not worked like the Schools of Arts in other countries. The chrome-tanning industry and the aluminium industry had been recently brought within the programme of work of the Madras School of Arts and this rendered that institution at once useful to the people and profitable to Government. The member observed that he had some

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